

Tuesday June 8th, 2021, Tuesday in the Tenth Week of Ordinary Time, Year II

Good Morning from St. Bernadette's.

I hope everyone is keeping safe and well, and following all the guidance we receive to overcome these strange times, and continuing to pray for all our needs at this time.

And we wake up to another lovely morning, with God's blessings in abundance! This is an early Message as late last night I had a phone call from Hollowells asking me to do an 8:30am service at Carleton, as the minister who was due to take the service has been 'Tracked and Traced' so they found themselves ministerless, so it's an early start to prepare the funeral and get off to the Crematorium!

Today's first reading, Corinthians 1:18-22 makes a good character study of the man St. Paul. Today Paul comes across as passionate, with strong feelings of love and affection towards the people of Corinth, but also some anger that they have not put their trust in him and are listening to his detractors. And in showing his true feelings, we also see a very vulnerable side to St. Paul that is not always seen on the surface of his Letters. Paul is most anxious to sort out the many crises that the Church in Corinth is experiencing, berating them for thinking he had lost interest in them. Here we have Paul being angry - his detractors in Corinth said he did not visit them again because he had lost interest in them. Like Jesus, when Paul says 'Yes' he means 'Yes.' God had anointed him with the Spirit and he was their apostle – and is passionate about everything he does, including his prayers for themselves and the world.

Oh Lord, our Father,

In a world turn apart by fear and suspicion,

Teach us your children that Love is the only means to conquer fear:

The Love we encounter as we search you out,

The Love we encounter as we accept your embrace.

Oh Lord, the Son,

In a world full of anger and frustration,

Teach us, your servants, your friends, your sisters and your brothers,

To overturn the tables and tear down the fences

Which turn away the hungry and homeless:

To feed and house the disciple that knocks on our door

In the guise of the stranger,

And to find the Love we seek in loving others.

Oh Lord, the Holy Spirit,

*Mother of Wisdom,
Teach us, your children, to be caring of one another,
To protect one another,
As you gather the nations under the feathers of your wings.
Help us to know peace that steals gently in through quiet acts of kindness.
Amen.*

Let's make a prayer for unity between one another, and with God, as we sing together 'Bind Us Together.' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHJzD46-qU>

Following on from the Beatitudes yesterday, Jesus has made it clear the kind of person he expects his followers to be. Today, in two short parables, in Matthew 5:13-16, we are told that the followers of Jesus are expected to be noticed - like salt, which adds zest to food, or a city on a hilltop, or a lamp on a stand, so that *'seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'* Only if people can see our good works will they give praise to God. As with the Beatitudes, Jesus is not giving us strict ideas on what to do and what not to do – each of us in our own way has to discover *how* to be light, to be salt, and to be the great city that witnesses to Christ.

*You are the light of the world.
But if that light's under a bushel
It's lost something kind of crucial.
You got to stay bright to be the light of the world.
You are the salt of the earth.
But if that salt has lost its flavour
It ain't got much in its favour.
You can't have that fault and be the salt of the earth.
You are the city of God.
But if that city's on a hill
It's kind of hard to hide it well.
You gotta stay pretty in the city of God.
So let your light, so shine before men,
Let your light so shine!*

Yes, Fr. Peter is once again embracing his inner hippy, quoting the lyrics from 'Godspell' there, and here is the song from the film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRzqwSUlvmU> And here is a still from this morning's video for the children – in which I point out the benefits of a *little* bit of salt on your chips, and how we can be Salt to the Earth! I ended the video adding a good dollop of ketchup, although our Good Lord sadly didn't make any mention of that condiment!

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Neil Ainsworth whose funeral I am celebrating this morning, and Manlio Avverso Bolide, whose funeral I will be celebrating at Carleton later this afternoon. *May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, Amen.*

So! Break out your old flares, have a dance on the prom, and I may just see you there!

And remember, St. Bernadette's is not closed. We're just doing things differently for a while, until we are allowed to gather together once more, more stronger, more faithful, more loving, more creative, and more grateful for the amazing community that is St. Bernadette's.

With love and faith in Jesus.

Fr. P.